EXAMPLE 14

The same operations of extraction, concentration and drying as in method 1) of Example 1 were conducted for crude aloe as a starting crude drug.

(Quantitative Test) 0.536 μg/mL

(Activity Test) 0.074

(Confirmation Test) positive for (2), (5), (8), (12) and (13)

EXAMPLE 15

The same operations of extraction, concentration and drying as in method 1) of Example 1 were conducted for ginseng as a starting crude drug.

(Quantitative Test) 0.087 μg/mL

(Activity Test) 0.051

(Confirmation Test) positive for (2), (3), (4), (7), (8), (10), (11), (12) and (13)

A summary of the results of analysis and evaluation of each of the extracts of Examples 1 through 15 is given in Table 1 where "p" indicates a positive result and no entry indicates a negative result for the confirmation test:

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF ANALYSIS AND PHARMACEUTICAL ACTIVITY OF CRUDE DRUG EXTRACTS

	EXTRACTION	QUANTITATIVE TEST	ACTIVITY	CONFIRMATION TEST												
EXAMPLE	METHOD	μgSi/ml	TEST	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1-1	1	0.65	0.772			p	p			p	p	p	p	p	p	p
1-2	2	0.737	1.44			p	p			p	p	p	p	p	p	p
1-3	3	0.682	0.608			p	p			p	p	p	p	p	p	p
1-4	5(3)	0.627	0.824			p	p			p	p	p	p	p	p	p
2	5(1)	0.388	1.184	p	p	p			p		p	p	p	p	p	p
3-1	1	0.304	1.848		p			p		p	p	p	p	p	p	p
3-2	2	0.347	2.268		p	p		p		p	p	p	p	p	p	p
4-1	1	2.7	0.716		p				p		p		p	p	p	p
4-2	2	2.728	0.876		p				p		p	p	p	p	p	p
4-3	5(1)	15.93	0.996		p				p		p	p	p	p	p	p
5-1	1	1.276	0.688		p		p			p	p	p	p	p	p	p
5-2	2	1.805	0.88		p	p	p			p	p	p	p	p	p	p
6	5(1)	0.809	0.78		p	p				p	p		p	p	p	p
7	2	0.392	0.752		p		p	p		p	p	p	p	p	p	p
8-1	1	0.725	0.189		p	p				p	p		p		p	p
8-2	2	0.964	0.573		p	p	p	p			p		p		p	p
9	2	0.281	0.434		p	p					p	p	p	p	p	p
10	2	0.077	0.164		p						p	p	p		p	p
11-1	3	0.203	0.09		p	p					p	p	p	p	p	p
11-2	5(3)	0.227	0.063		p	p					p	p	p	p	p	p
12-1	1	0.969	0.055		p	p	p			p	p				p	p
12-2	2	1.711	0.084		p	p	p				p		p	p	p	p
13-1	1	0.118	0.071		p	p		p	p		p	p	p	p	p	p
13-2	2	0.122	0.078		p	p		p	p		p		p	p	p	p
14	1	0.536	0.074		p			p			p				p	p
15	1	0.087	0.051		p	p	p			p	p		p	p	p	p

It is apparent from the results of the above-mentioned Examples where various crude drugs were used that, when soluble silicon compounds are contained in more than certain amounts, the crude drug extracts exhibit a pharmaceutical effect. The method of the present invention establishes a standardization for crude drugs which has been ambiguous up to now. The silicon compounds contained in the crude drug extracts include various kinds of compounds. In the present invention, they are wholly standardized in terms of amount calculated as silicon measured by a molybdenum blue method. Depending upon the type of the crude drug, substances therein other than the silicon compounds are varied. However, when coloring reaction tests, etc. for such substances are appropriately used together with the silicon content determination, more precise standardization of crude drugs can be established.

As shown in Table 1, the Examples indicate a tendency for an increase in the extracting efficiency of the soluble silicon compounds when the extracting operation is conducted using a solution where the pH is adjusted to an alkaline region (e.g. pH being around 9.5), as for example in extraction method 2. Accordingly, extraction using a solution where the pH is adjusted to the alkaline region (e.g. pH about 9.5) is an example of a preferred extracting method.

As such, in accordance with the present invention, when soluble silicon compounds which provide a pharmaceutical effect, such as inhibition of plasma kallikrein, are used as an index, the quality of various crude drugs and extracts thereof can be standardized. Accordingly, the present invention achieves crude drug extracts having a stable quality and greatly contributes to the appropriate standardization of pharmaceuticals.

What is claimed is:

1. An extract from a plant or a fungus, wherein the extract comprises at least about 0.05 mg of at least one soluble silicon compound calculated as silicon per gram of dry extract, as an effective component, wherein the extract exhibits inhibitory action against the production of plasma kallikrein, said extract being obtained by extraction with water or an aqueous solvent, wherein the pH of said water or aqueous solvent is 8.5 to 10.5, and

wherein said plant or fungus comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of tanjin (*Salvia miltiorrhiza* radix), shireishi (*Ganoderma lucidum*), scouring rush (*Equisetum hiemale*), Chinese gutta percha, chorei (polyporus sclerotiumt bukuryo (poria selerotium), and pueraria root.

2. An extract as claimed in claim **1** which is a) positive to terpenes, steroids or saccharides by anisaldehyde analysis,